

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /070 W

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R 111603Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2701

INFO DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SP

SUBJ: AN ARMY GENERAL'S VIEWS ON MILITARY OFFICERS'  
DETENTIONS

BRIG. GEN. MARIANO ESCRIBANO, CHIEF OF THE SPANISH ARMY  
LIAISON COMMISSION WITH MAAG, SAID THE FOLLOWING TO DCM  
THIS WEEKEND ON THE MILITARY DETENTIONS. THE LEFTIST (PERHAPS  
COMMUNIST) VIEWS OF ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL DETAINEES, MAJ.  
LUIS OTERO FERNANDEZ, HAVE BEEN KNOWN, AND HE HAS BEEN UNDER  
SURVEILLANCE FOR SOME TWO YEARS. OTERO WAS INFLUENCED BY HIS  
WIFE, WHO DEVELOPED STRONG LEFTIST SYMPATHIES WHILE DOING SOCIAL  
WORK WITH LEFTIST PRIESTS. TWO OF THE OTHER DETAINEES WERE  
INFLUENCED TO LEFTIST VIEWS BY PROFESSORS WITH WHOM THEY BECAME  
ACQUAINTED WHILE ATTENDING (OR POSSIBLY TEACHING AT) THE UNIVERSITY  
IN BARCELONA. STILL ANOTHER DETAINEE (PROBABLY CAPT. RESTITUTO  
VALERO RAMOS) IS A VERY FINE OFFICER BUT IS A KNOWN ANTI-MONARCHIST,  
WHO HAD SOME UNPLEASANT ARGUMENTS WITH JUAN CARLOS OVER THE  
MONARCHY WHEN THEY WERE COMPANIONS IN THE SPANISH MILITARY  
ACADEMY AT ZARAGOSA. WHAT HIS CURRENT OBJECTIONABLE ACTIVITIES  
MIGHT HAVE BEEN GEN. ESCRIBANO DID NOT SAY. GEN. ESCRIBANO  
DOUBTED THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DETAINEES HAD GONE MUCH BEYOND  
EXCHANGES OF IDEAS, AND HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE PENALTIES TO BE  
HEAVY. HE DOES NOT THINK THE CASES ARE VERY IMPORTANT, BUT  
BELIEVES THE DETENTIONS WERE MADE NOW AS A POINTED WARNING TO  
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MILITARY OFFICERS AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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